

Department to investigate fairly and impartially who leaked this? And why is this administration trying to distract the American people again from the 9/11 Commission report, a commission that this White House did not support the creation thereof or the continuation of this commission? And most importantly, does this administration trust the American people with the truth? I think not.

GOOD NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my appreciation to President Bush for the good news he has given all Americans.

Thanks to his efforts to combat terrorism, terrorists around the world are on the run. Thanks to his economic initiatives, more than one million new jobs have been created in the last several months. Thanks to his education legislation, America's children are doing better in school. Thanks to his Medicare reform, seniors pay less for prescription drugs. Thanks to his tax relief, every taxpayer has more to spend on their family's needs.

Yet, many of the President's opponents, frankly, hate him and the national media is biased against him. Why does the President's good news bring out the worst in others?

Well, I do not know, but I do have a hunch that most Americans will give the President their heartfelt thanks on Election Day.

ONGOING ADMINISTRATION FAILURE

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, well, the Republicans can try and dredge up the ghosts of administrations past, but this commission report released this morning says that both the Clinton and Bush administrations are equally culpable in 9/11. What they say is there is an ongoing failure. The greatest failure is of our intelligence agencies and law enforcement agencies to share information.

They say no matter how much money you dump into the intelligence agencies, they are going to continue to fail because of the culture of keeping their own information. They say we need to establish a new way of sharing information among those agencies.

The gigantic bureaucracy of the Department of Homeland Security, written on the back of a napkin by Karl Rove at the White House, did not get there because it excluded the intelligence agencies who failed the United States of America. Nothing has been done about this ongoing failing to inte-

grate the information. They put out something called the TTIC, the Terrorist Threat Information Center. Guess what? They send low-level people there on short details and they do not share. They are like 3-year-olds about billion dollar budgets.

They have the information to make this country safe. It is time for this Congress and this administration to take the steps we need that are outlined in this report. Forget about Sandy Berger and a bunch of other B.S.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). The Members are reminded to avoid profanity.

IRAQ'S RETURN TO NORMALCY

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, there is still a lot to do, but as we speak the Iraqi government is making progress. Iraqi police are rounding up kidnappers. The Kurds have captured 15 foreign militants in Kirkuk, including a key leader and an al-Qaeda affiliate.

The number of Arab and other foreign fighters currently detained in Iraq continues to grow. Iraq's border police have apprehended more than 60,000 foreigners in the past 7 months, most of them Iranians trying to enter Iraq illegally, and there are plenty of signs that the residents of Baghdad are finding a sense of normalcy amidst the transition to democracy.

Five teams participated in the first Iraqi baseball tournament, including two female teams. Nightlife is returning to the banks of the Tigris River, and residents have started frequenting summer cafes.

In Mosul the military is working with Iraqis to dig wells, renew archeological digs, build a laboratory and repair a hospital elevator.

The Iraqi people are making progress despite the ongoing efforts of terrorists to drag them back to the dark ages of Saddam Hussein.

WILL THE PRESIDENT KEEP HIS COMMITMENTS?

(Mr. PASCRELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, every single law enforcement organization, including the Fraternal Order of Police, the National Sheriffs Association, supports our efforts, or lack of them, our efforts to continue the ban on assault weapons. Their only purpose is to kill or maim. The President made a commitment in his campaign in 2000. He said it. I did not. He said he would continue that ban, and now he is gone back on it.

Now, Mayor Bloomberg of New York said something very interesting 2 weeks ago. You folks are going up there for your convention. They had 11 homicides 2 weekends ago. He stood in a press conference and said, there are too many weapons on the street.

I say to Mayor Bloomberg, call your President, remind him of the commitment he made in the 2000 campaign, the presidential campaign, and make sure he keeps those commitments. We do not need another Columbine. We do not need another spraying of people who are innocently lost day in and day out. What we need is keeping our commitment. Will the President?

SLOPPY SOCKS SCANDAL

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I am hearing from my constituents on the Sandy Berger sloppy socks scandal. They are horrified, absolutely horrified that somebody who was trusted with our Nation's security would stoop to such a level of carelessness that now we have the situation where it appears he has stuffed it in his socks, in his pants pocket, in his jacket pocket and has taken frequent, frequent restroom breaks.

What happened with the documents?

They are offended that the former President would make this a laughing matter and talk about how he laughed about the carelessness.

Let me tell you, my constituents want some answers.

Here is an e-mail from one of my constituents. "I do not care when it was discovered or when it was released, only that it took place. I am very concerned that any government representative would minimize the action or regard it as sloppy, careless or a mistake. It is a crime."

The people want answers. They expect a full investigation.

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THE 9/11 COMMISSION REPORT

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, as I got up this morning, I heard on CNN news that the Republican leadership had already decided we cannot do anything about the 9/11 report until next year.

What we come to this morning is, first, the gentleman from Florida, now the lady from Tennessee, to tell us that the problem is Sandy Berger. Hey, folks, do not pay any attention to that report, just look at Sandy Berger's picture. Come on, look at Sandy Berger's picture. Look at Sandy Berger's picture. That is what you want to do.

This is a distraction by the White House. This is a damning report, and